Livestock policy

424. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of people engaged and working in livestock sector;

(b) the contribution of livestock sector to agriculture and allied activities;

(c) whether Government have formulated a National Livestock Policy for the development of this sector;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) According to National Sample Survey Organisation, survey of 1999-2000, the estimate of employment in animal husbandry sector was 11 million in principal status and 8 million in subsidiary status which is 5% of the total working population of the country.

(b) The contribution of livestock sector during 2004-05 in GDP at current prices is Rs. 123879 crore. Percentage contribution of livestock sector in GDP of agriculture and allied activities during 2004-05 is 22.3%.

(c) and (d) The National Livestock Policy is under formulation. Its finalisation will take time as it involves consultation with various technical experts, State Governments and other stakeholders to obtain their views before finalising the Policy.

UNDP Report on declining foodgraln production

425. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UNDP Asia Pacific Human Development Report, 2006 reveals grim farm picture of India, declining foodgrain production, low public investment in agriculture and cheap imports has kept India's food surplus constant at US $3 bn. from 1990 to 2000 and little has been done to promote productivity and employment;

(b) whether the report suggests that if Government want equitable development, it will need to invest more in agriculture, particularly, capital